



Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Training and Certification Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

DEQ has prepared this FAQ revision to increase the public's understanding of the ESC training and certification program. While it does not answer every possible question, it does address those questions which get raised frequently. If you have additional questions, please contact the Office of Training Services staff at 804-698-4000 or our website: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/TrainingCertification.aspx>

1. Question - How do I qualify to take the exam?

Answer: You may qualify by having at least 6 months (800 hours) of on the job experience as a plan reviewer, inspector, or combined duties, or you may take the required DEQ training.

2. Question - How do I apply to take the exam?

Answer: Anyone that has successfully completed an ESC course after July 1, 2013 must register for the respective examination through the DEQ Knowledge Center. You cannot enroll in the exam until you have completed a profile in the knowledge center which is found at: https://covkc.virginia.gov/deq/external/Kview/CustomCodeBehind/customization/login/cov_login.aspx.

3. Question - I attended ESC courses administered by DCR before July 1, 2013, how do I enroll in a future exam?

Answer: If you took ESC courses between November 1, 2012 and July 1, 2013, you will need to create a profile in the DEQ external knowledge center for future correspondence. You will also need to submit an email to DEQ at: certification@deq.virginia.gov with your name, course dates & title, and which exam you want to take.

4. Question - What is the minimum score I need to pass the examination & become certified?

Answer: A minimum score of 70% is required for all exams.

5. Question - What happens if I do not successfully obtain certification within one year of successfully completing a course?

Answer: If it has been more than one year since you successfully attended a course, you will need to again attend the course unless you can demonstrate that you have since accumulated 800 works hours dedicated solely to erosion project inspection.

6. Question - How long is my current certificate valid?

Answer: Certificates of competency are effective for a period of three years. It is **your** responsibility to complete re-certification prior to expiration.

7. Question – How long do I have to become certified as a combined administrator?

Answer: DEQ offers the Basic ESC, inspector, and plan reviewer courses multiple times over the course of a year. In order to sit for the combined administrator exam, all three courses must be completed within a one year period. You then have 12 months after the last course to pass the exam.

Alternatively, you may obtain a combined administrator certificate by obtaining each certificate and surrendering the three for a combined administrator certificate.

8. Question - What do I have to do in order to re-new my current certification?

Answer: You must successfully complete the required DEQ training during the last 12 months of the certificate's validity and apply for re-certification during the last 12 months along with the appropriate fee. DEQ must receive this information prior to expiration of your certification. If you renew prior to expiration, the current certificate's length will not be reduced at all.

Another option for re-certification is to complete the online recertification exam in the third year of your certification, prior to expiration.

A final option for re-certification is by taking the exam.

9. Question - I was unable to recertify prior to expiration and my certification has now expired. Do I need to take the course(s) again?

Answer: If you demonstrate that you have accumulated 800 work hours dedicated solely to erosion and/or storm water inspection, you can take the examination without again completing the courses. However, if you cannot demonstrate (i.e. work verification) that you have accumulated 800 hours since you were last certified, you will need to complete the courses again. As an example: a building inspector, which does E&S inspections of about 2 hours per week would NOT qualify. Over the course of 3 years, this person would have accumulated about 312 hours not the 800 hours required to sit for recertification.

Officially enrolling in the respective course administered by the Office of Training Services will enable you to "provisionally" meet the requirements of being certified.

10. Question - How much do the courses and certification exams cost?

Answer: The current cost for the courses is as follows:

- Basic Erosion and Sediment Control (2 day) - \$160.00
- Plan Reviewer Course (2 day) - \$160.00
- Inspector Course (1 day) - \$100.00

The current cost for the exams is as follows:

- Program Administrator - \$75.00
- Inspector - \$75.00
- Plan Reviewer - \$75.00
- Combined Administrator - \$100.00
- Recertification Exam - \$90.00

* Note - if you have to re-take an exam, the fee must be paid again in order to take the exam.

11. Question - What if I have a handicap that necessitates special assistance or access for an exam?

Answer: DEQ complies fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act and we will make every effort to accommodate you in taking your exam. You must contact the Office of Training Services directly via the information shown on top of page 1.